

Message Text

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ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SY-05 SAM-01 OMB-01 PM-03 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SAJ-01 /062 W
----- 107112

R 301200Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4572

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 2115

FRANKFURT FOR RSS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: STOCKHOLM TERRORIST INCIDENT

REF: STOCKHOLM 2045

1. SUMMARY: DEFINITIVE EVALUATION, AND EVEN DEFINITIVE DESCRIPTION, OF TERRORIST EPISODE AT WEST GERMAN EMBASSY APRIL 24 WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE UNTIL SWEDISH AND WEST GERMAN INVESTIGATORS PULL TOGETHER AND VET THE AVAILABLE EVIDENCE. BECAUSE CRIME WILL BE PROSECUTED IN WEST GERMANY, SWEDISH AUTHORITIES APPEAR TO BE DEFERRING TO WEST GERMAN INVESTIGATORS WITH RESPECT TO DEFINITIVE REPORT. NEVERTHELESS, WE ANTICIPATE ACCESS TO WHATEVER COMPREHENSIVE REPORT IS PREPARED BY SWEDISH POLICE. OF COURSE WE WILL ALSO WELCOME ACCESS EVENTUALLY TO RESULTS OF GERMAN JUDICIARY INVESTIGATION. PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO PROVIDE CAUTIONARY BACKGROUND RE INFORMATION, MISINFORMATION, AND CONFIDENTIAL

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INFORMATION STILL NOT AVAILABLE. END SUMMARY

2. INFORMATION AVAILABLE: THUS FAR WE HAVE THE BENEFIT OF:

--OUR OWN EYEWITNESS OBSERVATIONS;
--INFORMAL COMMENTS ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF EPISODE GIVEN
US CONFIDENTIALLY BY POLICE CONTACTS;
--VOLUMINOUS MEDIA COVERAGE THAT MIXES ON-THE-SPOT
OBSERVATIONS, POLICE BRIEFINGS, BRIEFINGS BY OTHER
SWEDISH GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE INITIAL
ACCOUNTS FROM SURVIVING HOSTAGES, INCLUDING
AMBASSADOR DIETRICH STOECKER;
--COMMENTS MADE TO THE AMBASSADOR TODAY BY CHARGE
D'AFFAIRES HANNS REHFELD AND CHIEF CONSULAR OFFICER
MARK-ULRICH VON SCHWEINITZ IN A CALL AT THIS EMBASSY;
--COMMENTS MADE TO US BY SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY (UD)
OFFICIAL (PROTECT: ACTING CHIEF OF PROTOCOL BENGT
BORGLUND) WHO WAS INSIDE THE GERMAN CHANCERY AND
LATER INSIDE THE ADJACENT RESIDENCE FROM ALMOST THE
BEGINNING UNTIL SOME HOURS AFTER THE EXPLOSION,
THE ESCAPE OF ALL BUT TWO OF THE HOSTAGES AND THE
CAPTURE OF SIX TERRORISTS UNARMED AND WITHOUT A
FIREFIGHT.

3. GAPS. AVAILABLE ACCOUNTS NEED SUPPLEMENTING BY MORE
DETAILED INFORMATION FROM HOSTAGES AND FROM OTHER GERMAN
EMBASSY STAFF MEMBERS WHO EVADED SEIZURE BY THE TERRORISTS
PERSIST IN TACTIC OF SAYING NOTHING AT ALL, NOT EVEN THEIR
NAMES. STILL LACING ALSO IS INFORMATION ABOUT, OR FROM,
BAADER-MEINHOF SUPPORTING PERSONNEL WHO OPERATED OUTSIDE
EMBASSY.

4. MISINFORMATION AND CONTRADICTIONS. THE PUBLIC RECORD,
MEANWHILE, IF VOLUMINOUS ENOUGH TO PROVIDE REASONABLY
ACCURATE PICTURE OF THE MAIN EVENTS, IS ALREADY MUDDIED
BY MISINFORMATION AND CONTRADICTIONS, SOMETIME CORRECTED
AND SOMETIME NOT. SOME OF THE ORIGINAL PRESS ACCOUNTS
DEPICT OR IMPLY A FIREFIGHT BETWEEN TERRORISTS AND POLICE
AFTER THE TERRORISTS LEFT THE BURNING BUILDING. LATER
ACCOUNTS MAKE IT LOOK CERTAIN THAT TERRORISTS DID NO
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SHOOTING AFTER THE EXPLOSION, AND DESCRIBE TERRORISTS AS
UNARMED WHEN THEY MADE THEIR SORTIE. THEY WERE OVERPOWERED
WHEN SPOTTED HIDING UNDER PARKED CARS. (POLICE ACTIONS
DESCRIBED SEPTEL)

5. NO SUICIDE. ORIGINAL POLICE REPORT THAT ONE TERRORIST
COMMITTED SUICIDE WAS LATER MADE IN EFFECT "INOPERATIVE"
WHEN AUTOPSY SHOWED ALL INJURIES WERE CAUSED BY FRAGMENTS
FROM BLAST. ORIGINAL PRESS ACCOUNTS ALSO CONFUSED BODY OF
EXECUTED HOSTAGE DR. HEINZ HILLEGART AND SIXTH TERRORIST,
WHO, ACCORDING TO AS YET UNPUBLISHED REPORT, WAS
DYING OUTSIDE EMBASSY WHEN FOUND.

6. WEAPONS. NOTHING IS YET AVAILABLE RE RECOVERY OF
TERRORISTS' WEAPONS.

7. EXPLOSION. POLICE REACHED EARLY AND FIRM CONCLUSION
THAT EXPLOSION OCCURRED ACCIDENTALLY.

8. NEGOTIATIONS. THE TERRORISTS WERE VERY BUSY COMMUNI-
CATING THEIR NON-NEGOTIABLE DEMANDS TO NEWSPAPER OFFICES
DURING THEIR TWELVE HOUR STAY IN THE GERMAN CHANCERY, UT
IT CAN HARDLY BE SAID THAT NEGOTIATIONS EVER BEGAN.
MESSAGE FOLLOWS ON THIS SUBJECT (STATE 98172).
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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